

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
AREA COMMAND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Area Command (EPA Regions 8, 6, and 9)**



**Gold King Mine Site Tour, August 18, 2015**

**Subject:** EXECSUM / SITREP #7  
Gold King Mine Release

**San Juan County, Colorado**  
**Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384**

**From:** Area Command Situation Unit

**Date:** 08/18/2015

**Reporting Period:** 08/17/2015 0700 through 08/18/2015 0700

**Website:** [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## **Executive Summary**

For Internal Use Only  
Gold King Mine Release  
EPA Executive Summary: August 18, 2015 1900

### **Situation Summary**

EPA Area Command (AC), comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9 is continuing strategic management over all Unified Incident Command Posts (ICPs) involved with the response.

### **Highlights, Key Updates/Changes**

- AC implemented the draft Media Coordination Safety Plan.
- AC provided logistics and support for site visits by EPA HQ personnel, the BIA Southwest Division Regional Chief, and Channel 9 News from Denver.
- AC provided assistance to local residents regarding claims processing related to the response.
- AC Environmental Unit Leader, Toxicologist Technical Support, and AC Finance Officer were integrated into AC operations. AC Logistics continues to work on filling the Documentation Unit Leader position.

### **Area Command Emphasis**

For the next operational period, the AC command emphasis will be:

- Positive and professional communications.
- Well-being of response personnel.
- Response documentation and right-sizing guidance.
- Safety risk management and mitigation practices.
- Security associated with new location of AC.

Note: The metrics provided in this SITREP represent quantities reported for work completed on Monday, August 17, 2015.

## 1.0 Operations

### 1.1 Sampling Operations

The table below summarizes Operations sampling activities for August 17, 2015.

**Table 1- Operations Sampling Summary**

<b>Matrix</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>August 17, 2015</b>	<b>Cumulative for Response*</b>
Private Drinking Water Well Samples	Region 8	26	230
	Region 6	0	170
	Region 9	0	0
Surface Water Samples	Region 8	7	144
	Region 6	9	102
	Region 9	0	106
Sediment Samples	Region 8	0	39
	Region 6	9	127
	Region 9	0	81

\*Note: Sample totals compiled daily from SCRIBE database. Totals include field samples and QA/QC samples.

### 1.2 Water Distribution and Transportation Branch

Area Command continues to monitor potable water, agricultural water, and agricultural food deliveries. EPA has purchased 1,120 cases of bottled water to hand out to the community. The table below provides a summary of public support activities completed as of August 17, 2015.

**Table 2- Public Support Summary**

Activity	Region	August 17, 2015		Cumulative	
		Deliveries	Quantity*	Deliveries	Quantity*
Potable Water Deliveries	Region 8	2	46,800	16	181,000
	Region 6	0	0	0	0
	Region 9	0**	0**	0**	0**
Livestock / Agricultural Water Deliveries	Region 8	1	500	47	141,980
	Region 6	9	53,844	59	1,104,990
	Region 9	13	208,000	53	834,000
Agricultural Food Deliveries	Region 8	0	0	0	0
	Region 6	0	0	1	244
	Region 9	0	0	1	384

Notes: NR- Not reported.

\* Water quantities are reported in gallons, food quantities are reported in bales of hay.

\*\*Water deliveries in Region 9 are being handled by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

### 1.3 Community Engagements

The table below provides a summary of Community engagements reported for August 17, 2015.

**Table 3- Community Engagement Summary**

August 17, 2015		
Community Engagements	Region 8	1
	Region 6	0
	Region 9	0

### 1.4 Anticipated VIP / Congressional Visits and Public Events

The table below summarizes upcoming anticipated Site visits and public events.

**Table 4- Anticipated Site Visits and Public Events Summary**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Planned Event</b>	<b>Anticipated Date</b>
Area Command	Logistics support of EPA HQ Internal Review Team	8-18-2015
	Logistics support of BIA Southwest Reg. Div. Chief	8-18-2015
	Logistics support of release site owner interview with Channel 9 News- Denver, CO	8-18-2015
Region 8	Public Claims Assistance Session- Durango IC	8-18-2015
	□Durango is Back□Public Event	8-18-2015
	Public Availability Session- Durango, CO	8-20-2015
Region 6		
	None Reported.	N/A
Region 9		
	Daily meetings at designated Navajo chapters.	Daily

### **1.5 Community Relations Branch**

EPA National Call Number (844-607-9700)- On August 17, 2015, the EPA National call number received **16** calls. As of August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the national call number has received a total of **158** calls.

EPA Region 8- From August 15 to 17, 2015, their regional call center (970-385-8700) received **22** calls. As of 5:00 pm on August 17, 2015, their regional call center had received a total of **730** calls. On August 17, 2015, the toll-free call in number received 7 inquiries related to Region 8. To date, EPA Region 8 has received **83** calls on the toll-free call in number.

EPA Region 6- On August 17, 2015 the toll-free call-in number received **4** inquiries related to Region 6. To date, EPA Region 6 has received **54** calls.

EPA Region 9- On August 17, 2015, the toll-free call in number received **5** inquiries related to Region 9. To date, EPA Region 9 has received **21** calls.

### **2.0 Drinking Water System Impacts**

As of Saturday, August 15, 2015, all water systems previously impacted by the spill were back in operation. The table below summarizes drinking water systems affected by the response and their status as of August 17, 2015.

**Table 5- Summary of Affected Water Systems**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Number of Affected Water Systems</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Status</b>
Region 8	0	0	All systems currently in operation.
Region 6	0	0	All systems currently in operation.
Region 9	0	0	All systems currently in operation.

### 3.0 Finance

#### 3.1 Estimated Response Costs to Date

The table below summarizes estimated total costs for the response as of August 18, 2015.

**Table 6- Estimated Response Costs Reported as of August 18, 2015**

<b>REGION</b>	<b>EPA CUMULA EXPENDED PAYROLL</b>	<b>EPA CUMULA EXPENDED TRAVEL</b>	<b>EPA CUMULATIVE OTHER CHARGES</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE CONTRACT COST</b>	<b>TOTAL CUMULATIVE COSTS</b>
EPA REGION	\$610,267	\$60,073	\$0	\$679,284	\$1,349,625
EPA REGION	\$244,800	\$28,750	\$68,855	\$989,568	\$1,331,972
EPA REGION	\$211,200	\$24,000	\$0	\$396,888	\$632,088
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,066,267</b>	<b>\$112,823</b>	<b>\$68,855</b>	<b>\$2,065,740</b>	<b>\$3,313,685</b>

#### 3.1 Estimated Burn Rates

The table below summarizes estimated burn rates as of August 18, 2015.

**Table 7- Estimated Burn Rates as of August 18, 2015**

REGION			ESTIMATED BURN	DAILY RATE
EPA	REGION	8		\$134,962
EPA	REGION			\$110,998
EPA	REGION	9		\$57,463
TOTAL	DAILY	BURN		\$303,423

#### **4.0 Participating Entities**

Federal, regional, local and other entities participating in the response are summarized below.

##### **Region 8**

US EPA  
 USFWS  
 US Coast Guard  
 US Bureau of Reclamation  
 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)  
 ERT  
 Colorado Office of Emergency Management  
 Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT)  
 Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
 La Plata County  
 San Juan County  
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)  
 Southwest IMT  
 City of Durango  
 Durango Fire Department  
 San Juan County Health Department

##### **Region 6**

US EPA  
 USFWS  
 NMED  
 ATSDR  
 NM Department of Health

NM Office of the State Engineer  
 NM Department of Game and Fish  
 County of San Juan □ New Mexico

**Region 9**

US EPA  
 US Coast Guard  
 Navajo Nation  
 State of Colorado  
 State of New Mexico  
 State of Utah  
 State of Arizona

**5.0 Personnel On-Site**

The table below summarizes staffing numbers for the federal entities and agencies active in the response.

**Table 8- Personnel On-Site as of August 17, 2015**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Agency / Entity</b>	<b>Number of Personnel</b>
Area Command	U.S. EPA	15
	US. EPA Contractors	3
	U.S. Coast Guard	3
EPA Region 8	U.S. EPA Region 8	47
	US. EPA Region 8 Contractors	34
	U.S. Coast Guard	3
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	68
EPA Region 6	U.S. EPA Region 6	28
	US. EPA Region 6 Contractors	30
	U.S. Coast Guard	0
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	0
EPA Region 9	U.S. EPA Region 9	8
	US. EPA Region 9 Contractors	18
	U.S. Coast Guard	8
	Other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Entities	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>267</b>

**6.0 Source of Additional Information**

For additional information, refer to [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)



**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**PRESS RELEASES**

## **EPA Update on Gold King Mine Response Efforts for August 17, 2015**

EPA is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of citizens, respond to concerns and to evaluate impact to water contaminated by the spill. Today EPA provided the following updates:

### **EPA Staff Deployed**

EPA has deployed more than 210 employees and contractors for the response. The U.S. Coast Guard has provided 14 responders. There are also currently at least 20 different state and local agencies involved in the response working to help ensure the health and safety of the public.

### **The Last 24 Hours**

New Mexico announced its determination that drinking water systems and recreational activity along the Animas and San Juan rivers can resume based on water quality sampling results collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. Reopening drinking water system intakes and allowing recreational activities is a state and local decision and we believe they have taken appropriate steps in arriving at this decision.

### **Mine Discharge Treatment**

The Gold King Mine is releasing water at the rate of approximately 600 gallons per minute. Water is captured and treated at a system of impoundments before being discharged to Cement Creek.

## **Plume**

EPA is collecting water and sediment samples from Lake Powell near the inlet of the San Juan River EPA expects no significant impacts to Lake Powell associated with the Gold King Mine release.

## **Unified Command in Durango, Colorado**

Irrigation ditches drawing from The Animas River in Colorado are now open and available for use.

EPA teams continue to collect water samples in the Animas River and in shallow, domestic private wells adjacent to the river.

EPA, state and local response teams continue to evaluate water quality in shallow domestic wells adjacent to the Animas River.

## **Local Recovery Center for Businesses, Employees & Affected Landowners in Response to the Gold King Mine Release Impacts**

La Plata County, with the assistance of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DoLA), and with the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, will open a Recovery Center in Durango on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the east end of the La Plata County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Main Avenue, Durango Colorado

Staff from local, state and federal agencies noted below will be available to answer questions regarding financial and/or technical assistance related to the Animas River - Gold King Mine release. If you believe that you have suffered an

economic loss related to the event, or if you have questions related to water quality, crops or livestock, individuals will be on hand to offer information and/or assistance.

Services will be directed toward La Plata County businesses, employees and landowners who have been affected by the Gold King Mine release.

Services/Resources will include:

- Environmental Protection Agency-Assistance with Form 95 Claims for Damage for questions concerning loss of income or business.
- Environmental Protection Agency/Colorado Department of Health and Environment- (for questions concerning Water Quality Issues)
- Small Business Development Center/Region 9 Economic Development District/La Plata County Economic Development Alliance/ Chamber of Commerce (for questions and resources regarding impacts on businesses)
- Colorado State University Extension Service (for information concerning agricultural and ditch issues)
- La Plata County Department of Human Services (for information about local social and financial supports)
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment/Unemployment Benefits-Southwest Workforce (for information on how to apply for unemployment benefits and job-seeking)

For additional information, please contact the Call Center 970-385-8700 or email [susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us](mailto:susan.hakanson@co.laplata.co.us).

# **Unified Command in Farmington, New Mexico**

## **For Region 6**

EPA has a team of 62 employees consisting of federal on-scene coordinators, water quality experts, technicians and contractors supporting the response to the spill. The information meeting at the Farmington Convention Center was held tonight at 6 pm MT.

EPA continues to collect water quality samples from nine locations in the river near intakes for Aztec, Farmington, Lower Valley Water Users Association, Morning Star Water Supply System and the North Star Water User Association. EPA will continue to sample, analyze, and make data available to support local decision makers moving forward to allow them to make the best informed decisions. Validated sampling data for the Animas and San Juan Rivers from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation collected from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11, 2015 has been released.

Private domestic water well use has resumed based on water quality sampling results from the river collected by both New Mexico Environment Department and the EPA. EPA and NMED tested 114 private domestic wells.

Irrigation ditches along the Animas River have returned to normal irrigation and livestock watering operations. EPA has delivered 1,021,230 gallons of water for irrigation and 29,916 gallons of water for livestock watering.

## **For Region 9**

EPA also has a team of 37 employees of federal on-scene

coordinators, community outreach specialists, and other technical experts covering response activities on the Navajo Nation and Lake Powell. They continue to collect surface water and sediment samples in the affected areas. To date, EPA has provided 418,000 gallons agricultural water to impacted areas and approximately 400 bales of hay to date. Community meetings continue in Chapters in the San Juan River corridor. EPA also continues to collect water and sediment samples in the northern area of Lake Powell in coordination with the National Park Service.

## **Claims Process Update**

A claims process exists for compensating citizens who suffer personal injury or property damage caused by U.S. government actions. The process is available in EPA's regulations at 40 CFR Part 10, and includes guidance on documentation that may be required to support claims for loss of employment and loss of income, among other claims.

Claims for monetary compensation may be filed by submitting a Standard Form 95 specifying the nature of the loss suffered and EPA actions, if known, causing the loss or damage to property.

EPA is not offering immediate reimbursements for damages from the Gold King Mine water and it is not true that if someone submits a claim that by doing so they limit or waive future rights.

EPA's Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) regulation provides that a person may amend their claim form at any time prior to reaching a settlement with EPA, or before the person files a lawsuit under the FTCA. Additionally, a person claiming an

injury or damage has two years from the date of the event to file a claim with EPA under the FTCA. (40 CFR Part 10).

Standard Form 95 is not required to present a claim under the FTCA, but it is a convenient format for supplying the information necessary to bring an FTCA claim. Please note that a completed form must state a claim for money damages in a "sum certain" amount (that is, a specific amount) claimed for personal injury, death, or injury to or loss of property. In addition, if a sum certain is not specified in Standard Form 95 block 12d, or in accompanying information, a submission cannot be considered a valid presentation of a claim.

Although EPA's regulations state that it has six months to resolve a claim, EPA will make every effort to respond to Gold King Mine release claims as soon as possible. Claims must be presented to EPA within two years after the claim accrues.

[Complete the fillable PDF version of Standard Form 95 here.](#)  
[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
**REGIONAL SITUATION REPORTS**



**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
2015 Gold King Mine Release SITREP**



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region 8**



**Subject:** Situation Report #10  
Gold King Mine Release  
San Juan County, CO  
Latitude: 37.8945 Longitude: -107.6384

**From:** Colorado Unified Command (Situation Unit)

**Date:** 08/18/2015

**Reporting Period:** 08/17/2015 through 08/17/2015

**Website:** <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine>

New information included in the SITREP is in bold text.

#### Executive Summary

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, the EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek which feeds into the Animas River. The release resulted in coloring the Animas River a mustard-orange as the pulse of the release moved downstream. The leading edge of the release passed through Durango, Colorado, on Friday, August 7, 2015, and on August 8, 2015, it crossed the border into New Mexico where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River. As the leading edge of the release moved further down the Animas River into the San Juan River it became indistinguishable.

A Unified Command (UC) located in Durango, Colorado was established and continues to assess and mitigate contamination resulting from the release. The UC includes EPA Region 8, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and La Plata County. San Juan Basin Health Department has transitioned out of the UC and is now providing an Agency Administrator to the UC. Currently San Juan County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are providing Administrators to the UC. The City of Durango and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) are providing Agency Representatives to the UC.

The EPA and CDPHE have been taking daily surface water samples from the Animas River and Cement Creek. Animas River sediment sampling has occurred. CDPHE has sampled raw and finished public drinking water supply systems. Upon request, the EPA has also been sampling private drinking water wells. The results of the sampling analysis are being distributed as appropriate. The EPA has also completed irrigation ditch assessment and ditches were flushed and monitored prior to opening for irrigation use.

The Animas River reopened to recreational use mid-day Friday August 14, 2015 after being closed to all watercraft since August 6, 2015. The City of Durango's drinking water intake was not in use at the time of the event and remained off line until Friday, August 14, 2015.

An EPA Area Command (AC) is also located in Durango, Colorado and coordinates EPA's response between the EPA Regions 6, 8, and 9.

La Plata and San Juan counties still have active disaster declarations and the public health advisory issued 8/14/2015 by CDPHE for the Animas River remains active.

A Joint Information Center (JIC) and an EPA AC public information officer (PIO) are co-located and coordinating support for the UC and the EPA AC respectively.

#### 1. Introduction

##### 1.1 Background

Site Number: A8K9RV

Contract Number:

D.O. Number:

Action Memo Date:

<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>CERCLA</b>	<b>Response Type:</b>	<b>Emergency</b>
<b>Response Lead:</b>	<b>EPA</b>	<b>Incident Category:</b>	
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>not listed</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>08/05/2015</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>	<b>08/05/15</b>
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	<b>08/05/15</b>

#### **1.1.1.1 Incident Category**

#### **1.1.2 Site Description**

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

The EPA Region 8 has been investigating the conditions to assess the on-going releases and incremental de-watering and removal of blockages to prevent blowouts.

**1.1.2.1 Location** - San Juan County, Colorado, La Plata County, Colorado, Southern Ute Indian Reservation and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe reservation.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station was estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah.

#### **1.1.3 Site Inspection Results**

The Executive Summary section provides a description of the various sampling efforts that have occurred.

## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

1. Ensure health and safety of the public and response management personnel.

### **Sampling operations:**

2. Continue sampling plan and develop strategy to identify and evaluate any potential risks due to sediment in the river.
3. Continue river assessment through surface water sampling.
4. Amend field sampling plan to include assessment of remote areas of the canyon by Tuesday 8/18/2015.
5. Roll current well sampling effort into interim shallow groundwater monitoring plan currently under development. Communicate private well results and other follow-up action within 120 hours of sampling.
6. Develop a demobilization plan for next operational period.
7. Implement medium term river monitoring plan with contractor per their scope of work.

### **Mine:**

8. Continue management of adit discharge.
9. Maintain stability of mine road to ensure access.
10. Prepare for mine dump stabilization.

### **Outreach/Community:**

11. Effectively communicate with public and stakeholders, including San Juan County, Colorado, utilizing a multi-faceted communication strategy to disseminate results.
12. Develop a means to assess the economic impact upon affected communities.
13. Continued coordination with the Department of Agriculture (including state and local veterinarians) and the Colorado Extension.
14. Develop short term notification system for any immediate needs and develop a plan for implementing a workgroup to develop a long term notification plan.
15. Provide water of appropriate quality for specified use.

## **1.3 Critical Resource Needs**

All resources are being tracked by the Resources Unit. Resources for the response continue to be ordered as needed to fill critical resource needs.

## **1.4 Strategic Considerations**

United group of subject matter experts to advise policy makers.

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

#### 2.1.1 Response Actions to Date

The EPA is continuing property assessments on an as needed basis and identifying mitigation needs. The EPA sampled at five surface water locations as follows:

Cement Creek – 1

Animas River upstream of confluence with Cement Creek – 1

Animas River downstream of confluence with Cement Creek – 1

Animas River through Durango – 2 (Baker's Bridge and River Road)

The EPA sample count by media for 8/17/2015 is provided in the following table:

Sample Count for 8/17/2015		
Matrix	Number of Sample Collected	SampleType
Potable Water	26	Field Sample
Surface Water	7	Field Sample

These sample numbers include quality assurance samples.

Call center totals are provided in the following table:

	8/15-17	To Date Total
Well Water Test Scheduling	13	345
Water Concerns	2	101
Health Concerns	0	31
Recreation	1	21
Ecological Concerns	2	19
Livestock/Irrigation	2	19
Tourism/Media	1	53
Volunteer Offers	1	22
General Concerns	0	119
Daily Totals:	22	730

Total calls received at the Call Center through Sunday, 8/17/2015 is 730. An inaccuracy was found when reviewing the numbers reported yesterday. This report covers several days and corrects the inaccuracy.

Currently all irrigation ditches are open and available for irrigation use.

On 8/17/15 there was one delivery of 500 gallons non-potable water.

Potable water distribution:

Deliveries were made to two locations for a total of 46,800 gallons.

Other Operations:

The EPA continues to pump and filtrate river water to fill fish ponds at one location.

1120 cases of bottled water have been purchased to hand out to community. Bottled water is available at the UC/AC facility for pickup by community members.

The EPA is conducting **private** well water sampling as needed and calling those residents sampled to provide the analytical results. **Based on the sample results reported as of 8/17/2015, seven out of 105 private wells sampled had some exceedance of drinking water standards. These samples were taken from the well head and not the tap. It is unclear if the exceedances were caused by the mine release. Follow up work at the wells that exceeding drinking water standards include: flushing the well; resampling at the well; and taking an additional tap water sample for analysis.**

The following table provides the well information up to mid-day 8/18/2015.

Quantity	Totals
Well samples requested	311
Wells sampled	200
Wells with primary drinking water exceedances*	7
Wells with secondary drinking water exceedances*	11
Remaining wells to be sampled	111

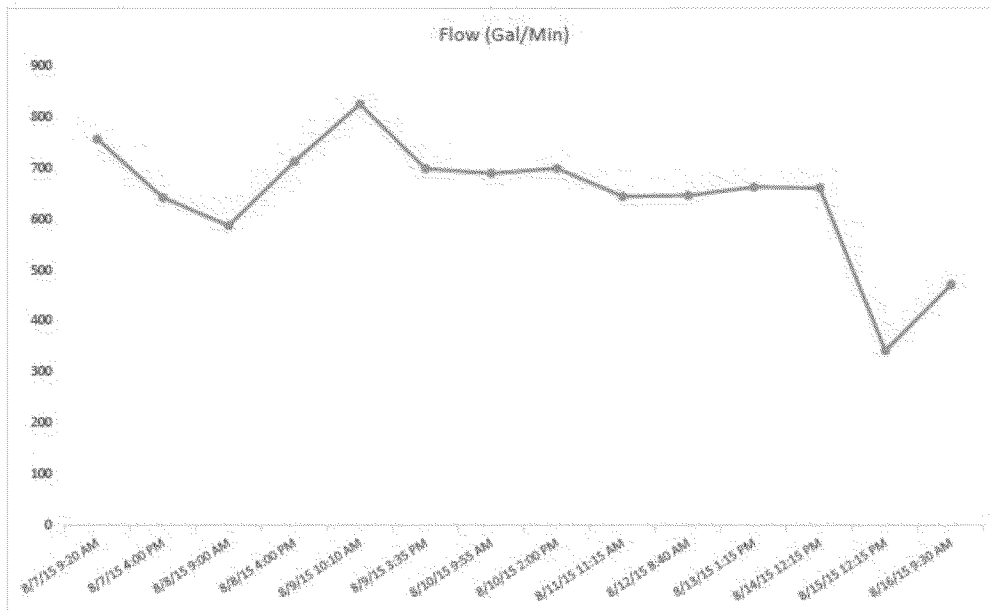
\*these samples are taken at the well head and not the tap

On 8/17/2015 CDPHE took their last sample of raw and finished water samples from public water supply systems in the impacted area. Public water systems will continue sampling according to their regular sample plans established by CDPHE.

#### Gold King Mine Site

The EPA continues to operate and work on optimizing four treatment and sedimentation ponds at the mine site which are treating water by lowering acidity levels and removing dissolved metals. **Water quality parameters were collected at 11 locations three times daily and four surface water samples are being collected. The four samples taken yesterday were from the Gold King Adit, the effluent of treatment pond #4, upstream on Cement Creek prior to confluence with treated water, and one downstream from confluence of treated water. The water quality parameters are pH, temperature, oxidation reduction potential (ORP), conductivity, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids.** The road stabilization work continues.

Flow from the mine through the morning of 8/16/2015 is shown in the following chart. **The flow at hour 1500 was 544 gallons per minute (gpm).** Treated water from the last treatment pond is discharging into Cement Creek. **The graph will be updated in the next SITREP.**



### 2.1.2 Anticipated Activities

On 8/18/2015 the EPA and CDPHE will be assessing the upper Animas River through the canyon.

**The CDPHE plans to demobilize on 8/19/2015 and will return to the normally scheduled watershed sampling in the area.**

**The San Juan County commissioners are holding a working session about the Gold King Mine Release the evening on Tuesday, 8/18/2015 that is open to the public. The meeting is being held at the Silverton Town Hall at 6:30 p.m.**

## 2.2 Logistics Section

No report.

## 2.3 Finance Section

No report.

## 2.4 Other Command Staff

### 2.4.1 Safety Officer

**As of Monday, mine operations have acquired two UTV's to replace 4x4 vehicles as the main mode of site transportation of visitors. All visitors will be required to attend an onsite safety brief, comply with the requirements, and remain in the vehicle at all times. Visitors will also be required to don a hard hat, safety vest, protective eyewear and safety shoes prior to visiting the mine site. The elevation and dramatic change in weather are always of concern so be prepared.**

### 2.4.2 Liaison Officer

No report.

### **2.4.3 Information Officer**

There are two PIOs in Silverton to support the community information needs.

There is a community event planned for this week. The announcement for this is attached to this SITREP.

Social Media Sites being maintained by the UC JIC through local and state resources are:

Blog – [goldkingminerelease.blogspot.com](http://goldkingminerelease.blogspot.com)

FB – [facebook.com/goldkingminerelease](https://facebook.com/goldkingminerelease)

Twitter - @GKMRelease

YouTube Channel – Gold King Mine Release

**As of 8 am on 8-18-2015, the blog has received 722 page views and 0 comments; Facebook has 19 likes, 5 shares and 0 comments; and there have been 11 tweets and there are 15 followers.**

### **2.4.4 Weather Forecast**

**Weather forecast for August 18 and 19, 2015:**

#### **DURANGO AREA**

##### **Today**

Sunny, with a high near 81. Light west wind becoming west northwest 10 to 15 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

##### **Tonight**

Mostly clear, with a low around 46. North wind 10 to 15 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph.

##### **Wednesday**

Sunny, with a high near 83. North wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

##### **Wednesday Night**

Clear, with a low around 49. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming north after midnight.

#### **SILVERTON AREA**

##### **Today**

Sunny, with a high near 69. Breezy, with a south southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west northwest 15 to 25 mph in the morning.

##### **Tonight**

Mostly clear, with a low around 38. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph after midnight.

##### **Wednesday**

Sunny, with a high near 67. North northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.

##### **Wednesday Night**

Mostly clear, with a low around 39. West northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.



### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 EPA Area Command**

The AC includes EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9. The EPA Region 8 is part of the Colorado UC. The EPA Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) and the EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation. The AC is completing daily Executive Summary updates on AC activities.

#### **3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies**

**A Unified Command (UC) located in Durango, Colorado was established and continues to assess and mitigate contamination resulting from the release. The UC includes EPA Region 8, State of Colorado Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and La Plata County. San Juan Basin Health Department has transitioned out of the UC and is now providing an Agency Administrator to the UC. Currently San Juan County and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe are providing Administrators to the UC. The City of Durango and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) are providing Agency Representatives to the UC.**

The SUIT continues water delivery. As a proactive measure, the SUIT is installing reverse osmosis on tribal residential kitchen taps. If well sampling results show any concerns, additional actions will be taken.

**US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Technical Service Center is providing technical assistance for the EPA road stabilization efforts in and around the mine site.**

**A Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) was requested by La Plata County. The request was implemented by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and will be open in the La Plata County Fairgrounds exhibit hall on Tuesday and Wednesday (August 18 and 19) from 1000 to 1600 hours. The EPA will be accepting claims at this event and CDPHE will also be present. The DAC provides technical assistance and support to the community and impacted residents including providing information on low cost loans.**

#### 4. Total Personnel On Incident

Gold King Mine Release 2015	
	08/17/2015
Group	Number
EPA @ REOC	3 (21 on call)
Contractors @ REOC	1
EPA in Field (R8)	22
Contractors in Field (R8)	34
EPA Laboratory	0
Contractors Laboratory	1
USCG	3
ERT	1
<b>Subtotal EPA Region 8 Resources</b>	<b>86</b>

**Personnel working at the Colorado Unified Command Post on 08/17/15  
(Does not include Area Command Personnel):**

Position / Section	Number of Personnel
Unified Command	7*
PIO	10
Safety	2
Operations	2
Planning (incl SITL, ENVL & RESL)	4
Logistics	4
Finance	2
Liaisons	4
Agency Representatives/Administrators	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

\*One UC is located at the Gold King Mine site

#### 5. Definition of Terms –

ATSDR= Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

EPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Responsibility, Compensation and Liability Act

CDPHE = Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

USGS = United States Geological Survey

UC = Unified Command (Comprised of Southern Ute Indian Tribe, La Plata County, San Juan Basin Health Dept, EPA, State of Colorado OEM)

UCP = Unified Command Post

AC = Area Command (Comprised of EPA Regions 6, 8 and 9)

NMED = New Mexico Environment Department

BIA = Bureau of Indian Affairs  
BOR = Bureau of Reclamation  
COEM = Colorado Office of Emergency Management  
CDPW = Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife  
**DAC= Disaster Assistance Center**  
**DOLA= Department of Local Affairs**  
SWIMT = South West Incident Management Team  
MCL=Maximum Contaminant Levels  
MSDS = Material Safety Data Sheet  
**PIO= Public Information Officer**  
PPE = Personal Protective Equipment  
USCG = United States Coast Guard  
UTV= Utility Terrain Vehicle  
ERT = EPA Emergency Response Team  
REOC = EPA Regional Emergency Operations Center

6. **Additional sources of information** – [http://www2.epa.gov/goldkin\\_gmine](http://www2.epa.gov/goldkin_gmine)

## **Attachment: Community Event Information**

Event: Love the Animas

Joining in and supporting the Event "Durango is back - River and Bike Parade", Mild to Wild wants to show our love for the #AnimasRiver and our appreciation for the community support.

In celebration,

1. We have 2 boats reserved for local officials and media. Please call Mild to Wild to reserve your seat (970.247.4789).
2. We are also donating 40 seats in rafts to the 1st 40 reservations. To reserve your seat: <http://bit.ly/1ffVXLs>
3. We will be facilitating private boaters and help manage congestion by providing people shuttles. We will be making loops from Four Corners & Santa Rita Park to 32nd or 29th Street from 4:30pm-5:30pm and 7:30-8:30pm.

Thanks again for all your love and support. The Animas River really is the heart of Durango and impacts us in more ways than most of us thought! If you have your own boat, the parade starts at 5:30 pm. If you prefer to show your support via the riverside bike path, join in by foot or bike. Let's show the world how beautiful Durango is, how lucky we are to live here and what a beautiful recreational and adventure waterway the #AnimasRiver is.

Date: Tuesday, August 18th

Time for event "Durango is back - River and Bike Parade: 5:30 pm at 32nd, 29th or anywhere on the bike path.

Meet time for Mild to Wild's Raft Trip "Love the Animas", join us at Mild to Wild at 4:45pm.

Post parade: Head downtown to support our businesses there!

**Spread the word! #AnimasRiver #LoveRiver #VisitDurango #LoveTheAnimas**

**Molly Mickel**

P: 970.247.4789

Explore. Experience. Escape.

And Always, Live with Adventure!

**Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours, Inc.**

50 Animas View Drive

Durango, CO 81301

**Adventure with us!**

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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**Delivery of water by EPA for Agriculture/Livestock needs**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #11  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM  
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)**

**Date: 8/18/2015**

**Reporting Period: 8/17/2015 0700 – 8/17/2015 1900**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

## **1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## **2. Current Activities**

Headquarters has established a joint website at [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine).

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: (844) 607-9700.

### **2.1 Operations Section**

EPA had a follow up discussion with NMED on both short and long term criteria as proposed in their submission. EPA requested that NMED provide clarification on some elements of their recommendations. EPA will continue collaboration with NMED.

#### Data Posting to the Web

The August 6 and 12, 2015, surface water sampling data from public water supply intakes is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-17-2015>.

On August 17, 2015, EPA R6 sent Area Command and HQ the following data, but it has not yet been posted.

- Sediment sample data from Public Water Supply Intakes for August 10, 12, and 13, 2015
- Irrigation Ditch Sediment sample data from August 13, 2015

#### Community Meeting

At the August 17, 2015, community meeting, community members were very interested in Dr. David Charter's presentation on samples results. The August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting should be the last community meeting.

#### Toll-Free Number Activity

	<b>8/17/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Total Calls Received	18	145
Calls Concerning R6	4	54
Calls Returned by R6	0	50

The table below is a breakdown of the calls pertaining to Region 6. Of the seventeen Well Water Test Scheduling calls, seven of the citizens expressed gratitude for EPA's efforts in sampling.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DATE: 08/17/2015</b>	<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>
Well Water Test Scheduling	2	17
Water Concerns	0	7
Health Concerns	0	4
Livestock/Irrigation	1	4
Tourism/Media	0	1
Volunteer Offers	0	3
General Concerns	2	14
Contractor/Vendor Support	0	5
<b>Daily Totals:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55</b>

#### Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

At this time the private drinking water well sampling effort is completed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Private Wells Sampled</b>
8/10	10
8/11	31
8/12	23
8/13	0 New Locations (38 re-samples)
8/14	35
8/15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 Distinct Wells</b>

#### Drinking Water Technical Support/Pretreatment/Connections

Morningstar and Farmington tested the connection. The pump works but the pipe separated in one section. System operators are working to repair the leak and will hopefully get the system back online later today.

#### Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

	<b>8/16/2015</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
River Surface Water Samples	9	96
River Sediment Samples	9	73

### Irrigation Ditch Sampling

The irrigation ditch sampling effort has been completed.

	<b>Total to Date</b>
Non-River Sediment/Soil Samples	59

### Agriculture and Livestock Water

Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

	<b>8/17/15</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>
Farmers Served	3	28
Gallons to Farmers	47,040	1,068,270
Livestock Farms Served	6	31
Gallons to Livestock Farms	6,804	36,720
Hay/Alfalfa Pickup	0	244 bales*

\* Bales of hay and alfalfa picked up in previous time period but not reported.

## **2.2 Finance Section**

### **Daily Cost Estimates Report**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Payroll</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Expended Travel</b>	<b>EPA Cumulative Other Charges</b>	<b>Cumulative Contract Costs</b>	<b>TOTAL Cumulative Costs Expended</b>	<b>Estimated Daily Burn Rate</b>
<b>EPA</b>	<b>\$188,970.00</b>	<b>\$47,650.00</b>	<b>\$11,854.56</b>	<b>\$1,048,841.98</b>	<b>\$1,297,316.54</b>	<b>\$116,450</b>

## **3. Participating Entities in Region 6**

US EPA  
USFWS  
NMED  
ATSDR  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
County of San Juan – New Mexico



#### 4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	13
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	5
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 DD – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	3
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	8
Region 6 Contractors in Field	25

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 San Juan River Response - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region IX

**Subject:** POLREP #6  
 San Juan River Response

Shiprock, NM  
 Latitude: 36.8704828 Longitude: -108.7892506

**To:** Robert Wise, EPA Region 9

**From:** Kathleen Dillon, Situation Unit Leader

**Date:** 8/18/2015

**Reporting Period:**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Background**

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>
<b>Response Authority:</b>	<b>Response Type:</b>
<b>Response Lead:</b>	<b>Incident Category:</b>
<b>NPL Status:</b>	<b>Operable Unit:</b>
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	<b>Start Date:</b>
<b>Demob Date:</b>	<b>Completion Date:</b>
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>

**1.1.1 Incident Category**

**1.1.2 Site Description**

The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado is a historic gold mine at approximately 11,300' elevation. The mine has a continuous discharge of acidic mine drainage that is a significant contributor of manganese, zinc, copper, and cadmium into the Cement Creek drainage of the Animas River watershed. The Gold King Mine has not had maintenance of the mine workings since 1991, and the workings have been inaccessible since 1995 when the mine portal collapsed.

EPA Region 9 is focused on a stretch of the San Juan River extending from Farmington, NM to Mexican

Hat, UT.

### **1.1.2.1 Location**

San Juan County, NM and Navajo Reservation. The Animas River flows into the San Juan River at Farmington, NM. After the Animas River meets the San Juan River, the San Juan River continues to flow west through parts of New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah.

### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The volume of the release based on US Geological Survey (USGS) Cement Creek gauging station is estimated at three million gallons. The initial environmental concern was the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals discharged in Cement Creek which flows into the Animas River through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico where it joins the San Juan River before flowing into Utah. The river is also used for recreational purposes, including fishing and rafting, and is an important cultural resource for the Navajo Nation.

The leading edge of the release reached the New Mexico border on August 8, 2015 where it eventually discharged into the San Juan River.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Aerial and ground reconnaissance indicates that the plume associated with the Gold King Mine release has dissipated downstream. There is no leading edge of contamination visible in downstream sections of the San Juan River or Lake Powell.

EPA Region 9 is collecting and assessing water quality from the San Juan River from La Plata Highway in New Mexico to Mexican Hat in Utah. Water sampling is occurring, and pH levels and dissolved concentrations of metals are being monitored.

## **1.2 Incident Objectives**

### **1. Safety**

- Provide safe working environment for all response personnel.
- Identify safety issues and monitor adherence to Health and Safety Plan
- Ensure personnel receive adequate rest and time off

### **2. Sampling**

- Daily water and sediment sampling from 11 designated locations along the San Juan River
- Sampling from Lake Powell
- synchronize sampling data and information with Area Command

### **3. Water Replacement**

- Work with Navajo representatives to staff water points and organize distribution

### **4. Public Outreach**

- Coordinate public forum at which Navajo tribal leaders and community members can address Incident Command representatives.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

Daily operations are focused around gathering water and sediment samples from 11 designated locations in the San Juan River. The Glen Canyon ICP is overseeing sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell.

Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured and will be continuing to deliver water to designated locations. The Unified Command has also identified a need on the Navajo reservation to provide feed for livestock.

## **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

### **Sampling Branch**

EPA Region 9 initiated water and sediment sampling efforts on August 9, 2015, to assess the impacts of the release at the Gold King Mine on the San Juan River. Starting on August 9, samples were gathered from the shoreline of the following 11 designated locations along the San Juan River:

#### **New Mexico**

San Juan River at LaPlata Highway (SJLP)  
 PNM Intake (SJFP)  
 San Juan River at Hogback (SJHB)  
 San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR)  
 San Juan DS from Shiprock (SJDS)  
 San Juan River at Four Corners (SJ4C)

#### **Utah**

San Juan River at McElmo Creek (SJME)  
 San Juan at Montezuma Creek (SJMC)  
 San Juan River at Bluff Bridge (SJBB)  
 San Juan River at Mexican Hat (SJMh)  
 McElmo Creek Tributary (MECT)

Sample totals are summarized below:

August 8 - 4 water samples (SJLP, SJFP, SJHB & SJSR)  
 August 9 - 13 water samples (all sites)  
 August 10 - 12 water samples, 11 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 11 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 12 - 13 water samples, 13 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 13 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 14 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 15 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 16 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)  
 August 17 - 12 water samples, 12 sediment samples (all sites)

There have been no requests for well samples and no requests for samples from diversion channels.

### **Community Relations Branch**

Region 9 continues daily meetings at designated Navajo Chapters. Chapter meetings are summarized below:

8/10 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/12 - Shiprock  
 8/14 - Oljeto, Aneth  
 8/15 - Hogback, Nenahnezad, San Juan, Upper Fruitland, Cudei  
 8/16 - Mexcian Water, Gaadiiahi  
 8/17 - No meetings conducted

The community involvement team worked as a group in Farmington to complete the following:

- Update our talking points and FAQs
- Continue to try to post livestock water information online
- Orient new team members to the situation and information flow here in Farmington
- Work through our hotline backlog
- Continue to try to coordinate with BIA and NN
- Keep updated on current situation with Shiprock

### **Water and Feed Delivery Branch**

A summary of water tank delivery for use for livestock and agriculture is as follows:

8/13 - 11,000 gallons of water delivered to Hal Chita, UT, 7,000 gallons of water delivered to Shiprock, NM  
 8/14 - 12 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout Shiprock chapter  
 8/15 - 13 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout various chapters of Navajo Nation.  
 8/16 - 13 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout various chapters of Navajo Nation.  
 8/17 - 13 tanks (each 16,000 gallons) staged throughout various chapters of Navajo Nation.

Tanks are located at the following positions:

Upper Fruitland Rodeo Grounds  
 Shiprock Rodeo Grounds  
 Gadiiaah Chapterhouse  
 Teec Nos Pos Chapterhouse  
 Red Valley Windmill (near BIA Rte 50)  
 Red Valley Windmill 19-228  
 Page Windmill 017-509  
 Page Windmill 02A-93  
 Five Points Intersection  
 Anneth Chapter House  
 Monument Valley Welcome Center

A summary of feed delivered for livestock is as follows:

8/14 - 384 bales delivered to Gaadiiahi chapter

### **Drinking Water System Impacts**

No known water systems in Region 9 have been impacted.

### **Glen Canyon, Arizona ICP**

Yesterday, EPA and START completed surface water and sediment sampling of Lake Powell. On Sunday, surface water and sediment samples were collected from five locations on the main stem of Lake Powell, including the following: Rock Creek Bay, Gregory Butte, Princess Cove, Navajo Canyon and the Glen Canyon Dam. On Saturday, the EPA/START sampling team collected samples from six locations including the presumed San Juan River inflow into Lake Powell between Zahn Bay and Great Bend, the presumed "plunge line" where river water plunges beneath lake water just east of Great Bend, Paiute Wash and Bald Rock Canyon.

On 17AUG, the team collected one sample from the Page, AZ drinking water system.

While the team was able to sample Lake Powell from the Glen Canyon Dam to the San Juan River delta there are significant gaps in data. For one, there are a relatively small number of sample locations – 11 total. Also, available sampling tools limited the effort to shallow water sampling locations. Because much of Lake Powell is several hundred feet deep, the team was unable to sample at those areas.

Given that Lake Powell is a hugely critical resource, the Lake Powell Branch believes it is extremely important for EPA to evaluate potential impacts to the lake from the Gold King mine release. Team members have also received numerous phone calls from various agencies inquiring about the need to examine Lake Mead, although this would seem to be a less urgent or immediate need pending the outcome of Lake Powell sampling efforts.

The upcoming USGS/NPS Lake Powell Mercury survey beginning this week would give EPA the opportunity to almost immediately begin this evaluation, and the Lake Powell Branch suggests that it would be a big mistake to miss out on this generous invitation from both a data need and a public perception perspective.

The Lake Powell Branch will be reviewing the details of the Mercury sampling program and believes that this survey could be modified to include priority metals in their analytes list. Our goal would be to gain a better understanding of heavy metals distribution in the water column and sediment throughout Lake Powell. EPA would have to provide funding and or lab support to participate in this event, however it would be money well spent as it would cost much more to do this on our own.

## **2.2 Planning Section**

### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Sediment and water sampling of the eleven data points on the San Juan River will continue today. Two samples along San Juan River (Mexican Hat and Bluff Bridge) will be gathered from the middle of the channel via small boat. The other 9 sample sites will continue to be gathered from the shoreline.

Farmington ICP members will not be conducting activities in the Shiprock Chapter until further notice. This includes samples being taken at the San Juan River at Shiprock (SJSR) and San Juan DS from Shiprock (SJDS), water and agricultural distribution needs and community outreach.

Sampling in the vicinity of Lake Powell will continue out of the Glen Canyon ICP. Sampling will recommence on Friday 21AUG15. The crew will embark on a 14 day float trip to collect a more robust sample set. The trip is in coordination with other agencies collecting data not related to this response.

A more robust water distribution system has been established throughout Navajo Nation. Water tanks are now staged at 13 total points throughout Navajo Nation with a capacity of 32,000 gallons of water at each location except for one location that has a capacity of 16,000 gallons. Tanks will be tested today for water quality.

Additional representatives from the EPA's community relations team have arrived at the Farmington ICP.

The Community Outreach Coordinator received notification that a demonstration will be held at the Shipwreck chapter on 18AUG15. Members of the Farmington ICP will not be attending.

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Continued daily water and sediment sampling is planned.

Refilling water tanks staged throughout Navajo Nation will continue as needed.

Community Outreach Branch at Farmington ICP will continue outreach with members of Navajo nation.

### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Improve relationship with Navajo Nation.

### **2.2.2 Issues**

On 17AUG15, at approximately 1130, seven members of the Farmington ICP response team were approached in the farmland area of Shiprock by a member of the Navajo Nation. The individual is in opposition to the response operations of Farmington ICP in regards to water and feed deliveries in the Shiprock Chapter. During the confrontation, the response personnel were threatened by being told their vehicles "would be stoned". They were also intimidated by a second vehicle that showed up in support of the individual. The response personnel listened to what the individual had to say and eventually left.

At approximately 1215, another incident occurred with the same individual at the bridge in Shiprock. There, the individual argued with 2 EPA employees and threatened to break their equipment. The individual left after a few minutes. In both cases the response personnel returned to the Farmington ICP and were unharmed.

An investigation is being conducted by the Navajo Department of Criminal Investigation.

Due to these events, for the safety of our response personnel, operations will be placed on hold in the Shiprock Chapter until the threats in this chapter are addressed.

## **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Yesterday, there was a burn rate of \$7,320.17 with a weekly burn rate of \$51,241.18 for the ERRS contract through EQM (Environmental Quality Management, Inc.). On average a total of \$4,302.23 is spent on personnel per day.

A total of \$254,571.80 is committed for upcoming operations.

START / Weston has a daily burn rate of approximately \$40,000. This includes all overhead, activities conducted in the field and lab analysis.

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

Personal Flotation Devices must be worn by all members of sampling teams while underway on any watercraft. When performing boat operations, a representative from each vessel must contact the Situation Unit Leader at intervals of no more than two hours stating location and current operations. Any lightning sighting will cause a stop to operations.

With weather being forecasted into the mid 90s, hydration is of paramount importance. Additionally, much of the terrain surrounding the river is uneven and rocky. Responders should transit these areas.

While transiting throughout the region, responders should be mindful of the potential for contact with wildlife. Scorpions, snakes, and other similar animals raise a potential for injury.

### 2.5.2 Liaison Officer

Liaison officers are continuing outreach with Navajo community members and representatives of the Navajo Tribe.

### 2.5.3. Weather Forecast

Weather forecast for Monday, August 17

#### FARMINGTON AREA

##### *Today*

A mix of sun and clouds with a high of 95, low of 60 and 20% chance of precipitation. Wind coming out of the southeast at 8 miles per hour.

##### *Tonight*

No precipitation tonight. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

##### *Tomorrow*

Sunny with a high of 92, low of 56. 20% chance of precipitation.

## 3. Participating Entities

### 3.1 Area Command

EPA Region 9 is coordinating with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Navajo Nation, and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The EPA Region 9 is working with the Navajo Nation to evaluate possible impacts to the Tribe. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified, and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water is protected. The EPA and New Mexico Environmental Department are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation. EPA Region 9 has contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding potential impacts to the Navajo Nation and is currently working with Navajo liaisons.

### 3.2 Unified Command and Cooperating Agencies

The UC includes EPA Region 9 and United States Coast Guard. Bret Moxley has assumed the role of Incident Commander.

## 4. Personnel On Site

EPA - 8  
EPA START - 13  
ERRS - 5  
USCG - 8  
Navajo Liaisons - 2

## 5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

## 6. Additional sources of information

### 6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

[www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

## 7. Situational Reference Materials



No information available at this time.